

An Introduction to

`(re.ex|re+gex|re?gex|re*gex){1}`



William Smith
Professional Services Engineerd, Jamf

<http://entourage.mvps.org/>



<http://entourage.mvps.org/blog>



~~<http://entourage.mvps.org/blog>~~



<http://entourage.mvps.org/blog>



<http://officeformachelp.com>



ent★ourage

<http://entourage.mvps.org/blog>



<http://officeformachelp.com>

.htaccess

http --> https

talkingmoose.net --> www.talkingmoose.net

.htaccess

RewriteEngine on

RewriteCond %{HTTP_HOST} ^entourage\.mvps\.org/blog\$ [NC]

RewriteRule (.*)\$ http://officeformachelp.com/\$1 [L,R=301,NC]

.htaccess

RewriteEngine on

RewriteCond %{HTTP_HOST} ^entourage\.mvps\.org/blog\$ [NC]

RewriteRule (.*)\$ http://officeformachelp.com/\$1 [L,R=301,NC]

Agenda

What is regex?

Characters with special meanings

Character classes and grouping

Applications and command line tools that support regex

Examples from real world experiences

Regex resources

What is regex?

Short for "regular expression"

"Regular" comes from the concept of a "regular language"

alphabet = { 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, - }

words = { 02134, 02134-3611, 55119, 55119-5027, 90210, 90210-0802 }

language = United State Postal Service zip codes

A regular language contains a finite number of words.

We can use an algorithm to determine whether a word belongs to a language.

What is regex?

United States Postal Service zip code algorithm = ##### or #####-####

regular expressions (regexes, regexp or regexen) = patterns

Regex is pattern matching.

Regex is pattern matching.

Validation.

Account

Billing

Confirmation




Let's get started


Email Address


By selecting Continue, you agree to the [Terms of Service](#) and acknowledge our [Privacy Policy](#).

Continue

or

 Continue with Google

 Continue with Facebook

 Continue with Apple

 Secure transaction

BASIC DIGITAL ACCESS

\$4.00

Enjoy unlimited articles, podcasts, videos and more on NYTimes.com and the NYTimes app.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Your payment method will be automatically charged \$4.00 every 4 weeks for the first year (\$1.00 per week).


It will then be automatically charged \$17.00 every 4 weeks thereafter, starting on May 30, 2021 (\$4.25 per week).

Your subscription will continue until you cancel. You can cancel anytime.

Sales tax may apply.

TOTAL

~~\$17.00~~ \$4.00




Let's get started

Email Address

By selecting Continue, you agree to the [Terms of Service](#) and acknowledge our [Privacy Policy](#).

Continue

or

 Continue with Google

BASIC DIGITAL ACCESS


\$

Enjoy unlimited articles, podcasts, videos and more on NYTimes.com and the NYTimes app.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Your payment method will be automatically charged \$4.00 every 4 weeks for the first year (\$1.00 per week).

It will then be automatically charged \$17.00 every 4 weeks thereafter, starting on May 30, 2021 (\$4.25 per week).



Let's get started

Email Address

jerry

Please enter a valid email address.

By selecting Continue, you agree to the [Terms of Service](#) and acknowledge our [Privacy Policy](#).

Continue

or



Continue with Google

BASIC DIGITAL ACCESS


\$

Enjoy unlimited articles, podcasts, videos and more on NYTimes.com and the NYTimes app.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Your payment method will be automatically charged \$4.00 every 4 weeks for the first year (\$1.00 per week).

It will then be automatically charged \$17.00 every 4 weeks thereafter, starting on May 30, 2021 (\$4.25 per week).



Let's get started

Email Address

(612) 555-1234

Please enter a valid email address.

By selecting Continue, you agree to the [Terms of Service](#) and acknowledge our [Privacy Policy](#).

Continue

or



Continue with Google

BASIC DIGITAL ACCESS


\$

Enjoy unlimited articles, podcasts, videos and more on NYTimes.com and the NYTimes app.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Your payment method will be automatically charged \$4.00 every 4 weeks for the first year (\$1.00 per week).

It will then be automatically charged \$17.00 every 4 weeks thereafter, starting on May 30, 2021 (\$4.25 per week).



Let's get started

Email Address

mmoose@talkingmoose.net

By selecting Continue, you agree to the [Terms of Service](#) and acknowledge our [Privacy Policy](#).

Continue

or



Continue with Google

BASIC DIGITAL ACCESS

\$

Enjoy unlimited articles, podcasts, videos and more on NYTimes.com and the NYTimes app.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Your payment method will be automatically charged \$4.00 every 4 weeks for the first year (\$1.00 per week).

It will then be automatically charged \$17.00 every 4 weeks thereafter, starting on May 30, 2021 (\$4.25 per week).

mmoose@talkingmoose.net

mmoose @ talkingmoose.net

limit 64

limit 255

56^{64}

37^{255}

7.656560673695E+111

infinity or wtf


7.656560673695E+111infinity or wtf



GAME OVER

PLAY AGAIN?

Save the internet. Use regex.



Let's get started

Email Address

mmoose@talkingmoose.net

By selecting Continue, you agree to the [Terms of Service](#) and acknowledge our [Privacy Policy](#).

Continue

or



Continue with Google

BASIC DIGITAL ACCESS

\$

Enjoy unlimited articles, podcasts, videos and more on NYTimes.com and the NYTimes app.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Your payment method will be automatically charged \$4.00 every 4 weeks for the first year (\$1.00 per week).

It will then be automatically charged \$17.00 every 4 weeks thereafter, starting on May 30, 2021 (\$4.25 per week).

mmoose @ talkingmoose.net
└────────┘ └──────────────────────────┘
limit 64 limit 255

An email address is:

"A string of up to 64 characters...

followed by an @-symbol...

followed by a string of up to 255 characters...

with one of those characters being a dot somewhere in the middle."

`\w{1,64}@\w{1,252}\.\w{2,253}`

(regex to match an email address)

`\w{1,64}@\w{1,252}\.\w{2,253}`

(regex to match an email address)

`\w{1,64}@\w{1,252}\.\w{2,253}`

(regex to match an email address)

`\w` = any "word" character (a-z, A-Z or 0-9)

`\w{1,64}@\w{1,252}\.\w{2,253}`

(regex to match an email address)

`\w` = any "word" character (a-z, A-Z or 0-9)

`\w{1,64}@\w{1,252}\.\w{2,253}`

(regex to match an email address)

`\w` = any "word" character (a-z, A-Z or 0-9)

`{ }` = "occurrence indicator" or "repetition operator" (repeat the preceding character)

`\w{1,64}@\w{1,252}\.\w{2,253}`

(regex to match an email address)

`\w` = any "word" character (a-z, A-Z or 0-9)

`{ }` = "occurrence indicator" or "repetition operator" (repeat the preceding character)

`1,64` = match at least once or up to 64 times

$\backslash w\{1,64\} = \text{mmoose}$

$\backslash w\{1,64\} = \text{martin}$

$\backslash w\{1,64\} \neq \text{martin.moose}$

$\backslash w$ = any "word" character (a-z, A-Z or 0-9)

$\{ \}$ = "occurrence indicator" or "repetition operator" (repeat the preceding character)

$1,64$ = match at least once or up to 64 times

`\w{1,64}@\w{1,252}\.\w{2,253}`

(regex to match an email address)

`\w` = any "word" character (a-z, A-Z or 0-9)

`{ }` = "occurrence indicator" or "repetition operator" (repeat the preceding character)

`1,64` = match at least once or up to 64 times

`\w{1,64}@\w{1,252}\.\w{2,253}`

(regex to match an email address)

`\w` = any "word" character (a-z, A-Z or 0-9)

`{ }` = "occurrence indicator" or "repetition operator" (repeat the preceding character)

`1,64` = match at least once or up to 64 times

`@` = @

`\.` = .

escape




```
/usr/bin/osascript "display dialog "Hello World!" buttons {"OK"}"
```

```
/usr/bin/osascript "display dialog \"Hello World!\" buttons {\"OK\"}"
```

`\w{1,64}@\w{1,252}\.\w{2,253}`

(regex to match an email address)

`\w` = any "word" character (a-z, A-Z or 0-9)

`{ }` = "occurrence indicator" or "repetition operator" (repeat the preceding character)

`1,64` = match at least once or up to 64 times

`@` = `@`

`\.` = `.`

escape



Agenda

What is regex?

Characters with special meanings

Character classes and grouping

Applications and command line tools that support regex

Examples from real world experiences

Regex resources

Agenda

What is regex?

Characters with special meanings

Character sets and grouping

Applications and command line tools that support regex

Examples from real world experiences

Regex resources

https://regex101.com

regular expressions 101

[@regex101](#) [donate](#) [contact](#) [bug reports & feedback](#) [wiki](#)

REGULAR EXPRESSION

2 matches, 20 steps (~1ms)

/ m(oo|ea)n / gm

TEST STRING

SWITCH TO UNIT TESTS ▶

moon

mean

morn

EXPLANATION

▼ / m(oo|ea)n / gm

m matches the character **m** literally (case sensitive)

▼ 1st Capturing Group (oo|ea)

▼ 1st Alternative oo

oo matches the characters **oo** literally (case sensitive)

▼ 2nd Alternative ea

ea matches the characters **ea** literally (case sensitive)

n matches the character **n** literally (case sensitive)

▼ Global pattern flags

g modifier: global. All matches (don't return after first match)

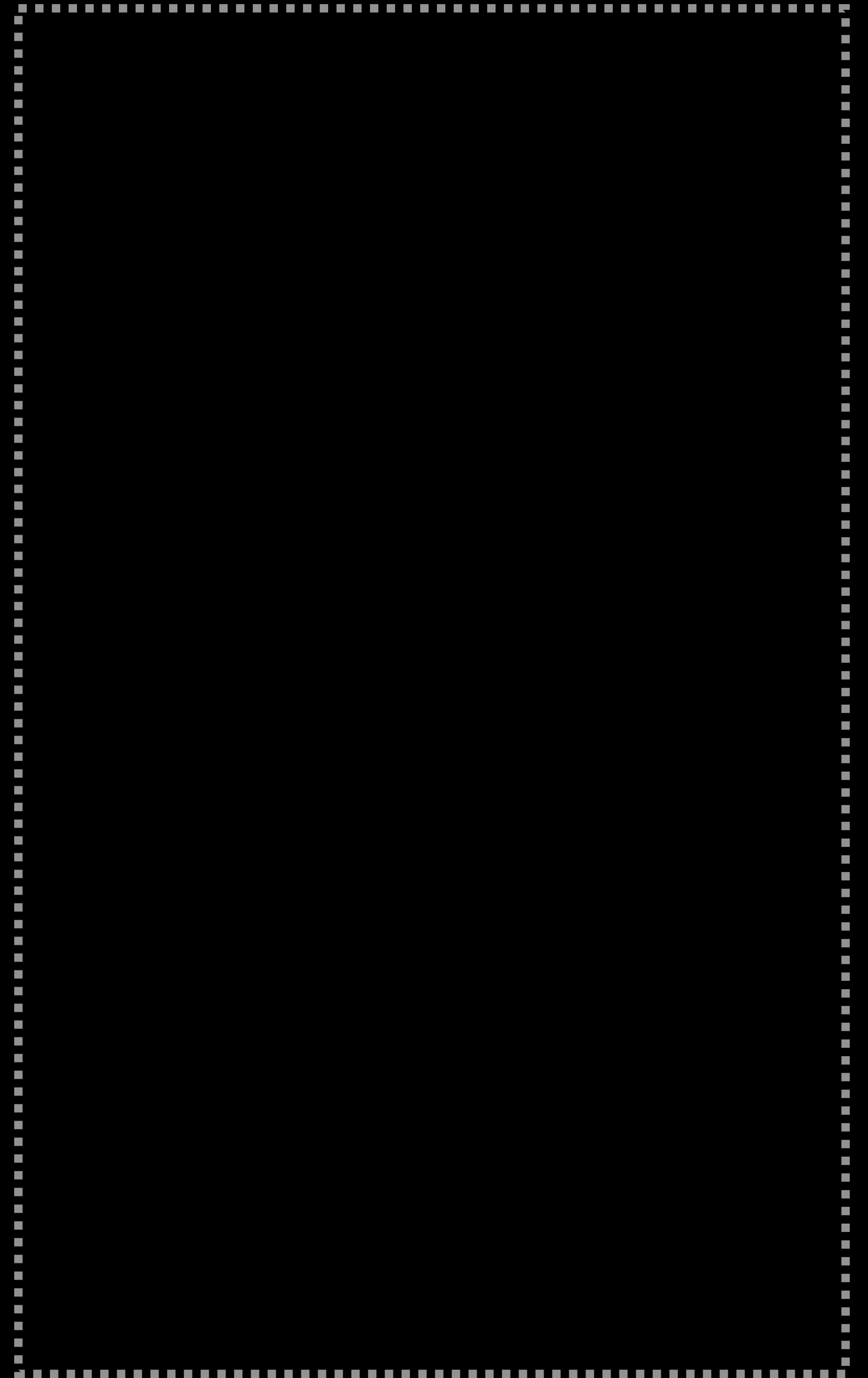
m modifier: multi line. Causes **^** and **\$** to

MATCH INFORMATION

Match 1

There is no shame in creating
a regex cheatsheet.

There is no shame in creating
a regex cheatsheet.

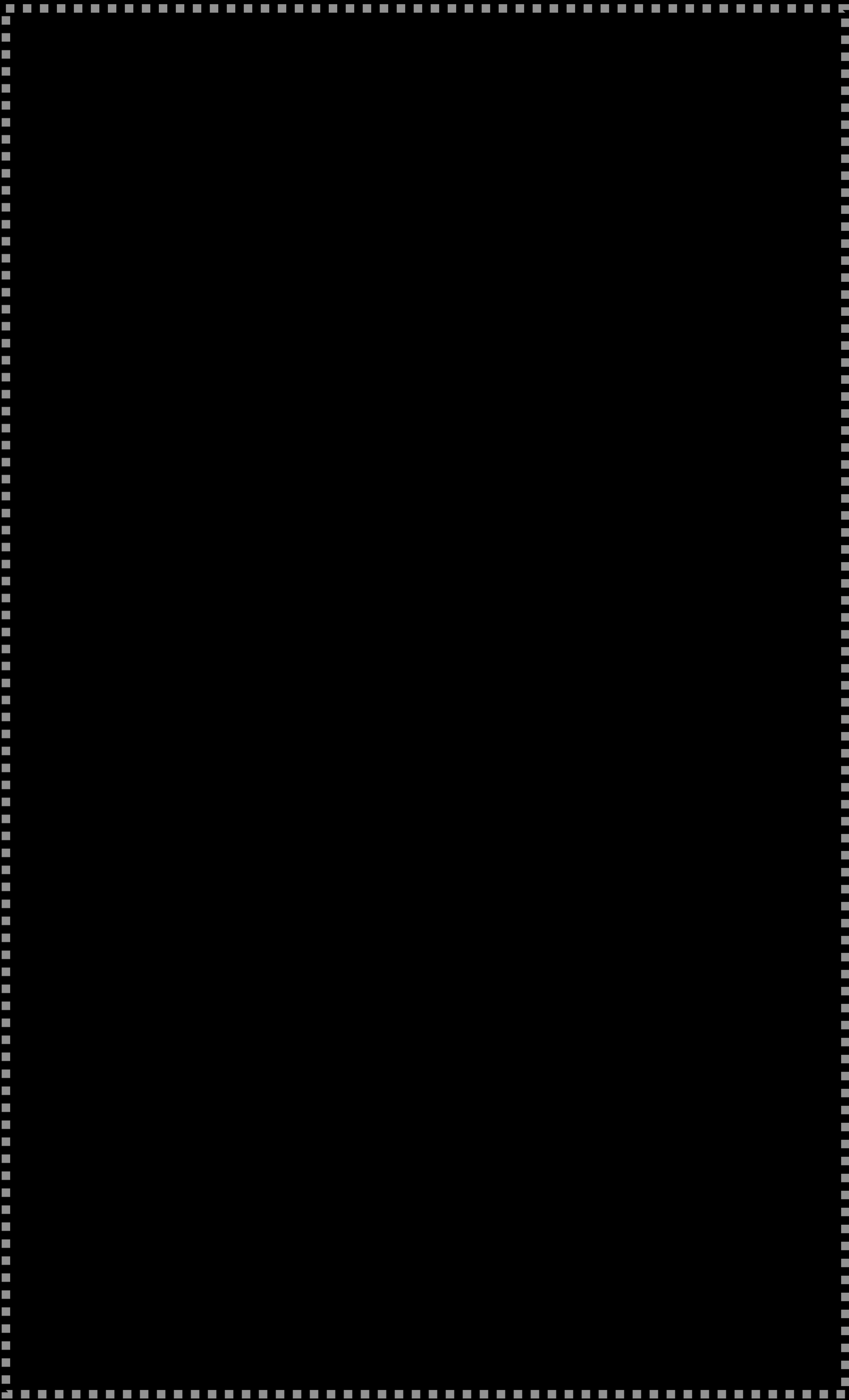


Letters and numbers match themselves

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{abc} \\ \text{XYZ} \\ \text{123} \end{array} \right. \begin{array}{l} = \\ = \\ = \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \text{abc} \\ \text{XYZ} \\ \text{123} \end{array}$

$\begin{array}{l} \text{moon} \\ \text{Moon} \\ \text{moon} \end{array} \begin{array}{l} = \\ = \\ \neq \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \text{moon} \\ \text{Moon} \\ \text{Moon} \end{array}$

$\begin{array}{l} 456 \\ \text{abc} \\ \text{Penn State} \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \neq \\ \neq \\ \neq \end{array} \begin{array}{l} 564 \\ \text{ABC} \\ \text{PennState} \end{array}$



A period matches any character

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \end{array} \right. = \begin{array}{l} a \\ A \\ 1 \end{array}$

$\cdot\text{oon} = \text{Moon, moon, Loon, loon, toon}$

$\text{M}\cdot\cdot\text{n} = \text{Moon, MOOn, Mean, M33n, M-sn}$

$4\cdot\cdot = 456, 412, 4Ab$

$\text{moon}\cdot \neq \text{moon123}$

$\text{Penn}\cdot\text{State} \neq \text{PennState}$


$\text{Penn}\cdot\text{State} = \text{Penn State}$

$a\ b\ c\ \dots = \text{lowercase letters match themselves}$

$A\ B\ C\ \dots = \text{UPPERcase letters match themselves}$

$1\ 2\ 3\ \dots = \text{numbers match themselves}$

Square brackets indicate a choice of one character

{	[abc]	=	a, b or c
	[XYZ]	=	X, Y or Z
	[123]	=	1, 2 or 3
			
	[^aeiou]	=	not a, e, i, o nor u
	[^RSTLNE]	=	not R, S, T, L, N nor E
	[^024680]	=	not 0, 2, 4, 6 nor 8
	[AaBbCc]	=	a, b, c, A, B or C
	[Dog]	≠	Dog
	D [Oo] [Gg]	=	Dog, DoG, DOG or DOg

a b c ... = lower case letters match themselves
A B C ... = UPPER case letters match themselves
1 2 3 ... = numbers match themselves
.
\. = any single character
 = period

Square brackets support ranges of letters or numbers

{	[a-z]	=	any lower case letter a through z
	[A-Z]	=	any upper case letter A through Z
	[0-9]	=	any digit 0 through 9
	[^a-e]	=	not a through e nor c
	[^L-PX-Z]	=	not L through P, not X through Z
	[1-489]	=	1 through 4, 8 or 9
	[A-C1-3].	=	Az, B3, CQ, 1@, 24 or 3a
	[a-Z]		invalid range
	[a-9]		invalid range

a b c ...	=	lower case letters match themselves
A B C ...	=	UPPER case letters match themselves
1 2 3 ...	=	numbers match themselves
.	=	any single character
\.	=	period
[a b c]	=	match one of these characters
[^a b c]	=	don't match any of these characters

Repetitions and optional characters

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} * \\ q* \end{array} \right.$ = repeat the preceding character 0 or more times
= q, qq, qqq, qqqq, etc., or no match

$\begin{array}{l} + \\ q+ \end{array}$ = repeat the preceding character 1 or more times
= q, qq, qqq, qqqq, etc.

$\begin{array}{l} \{n\} \\ q\{4\} \end{array}$ = repeat the preceding character n times
= qqqq

$\begin{array}{l} \{m,n\} \\ q\{2,4\} \end{array}$ = repeat the preceding character m to n times
= qq, qqq or qqqq

$\begin{array}{l} ? \\ q? \end{array}$ = the preceding character is optional
= q or no match

a b c ... = lower case letters match themselves
A B C ... = UPPER case letters match themselves
1 2 3 ... = numbers match themselves
.
\. = any single character
= period
[a b c] = match one of these characters
[^ a b c] = don't match any of these characters
[a - z] = match any letter a through z
[A - Z] = match any letter A through Z
[0 - 9] = match any digit 0 through 9

Repetitions and optional characters

$5^* - 5^*$	=	555-5555, 5-5, -5, -
\cdot^*	=	The quick brown fox... or nothing
$16\backslash\cdot 1[7-9]\cdot^*$	=	16.17.1, 16.18, 16.19.543b3
$5^+ - 5^+$	=	555-5555, 5-5
$0^+ 7$	=	07, 007, 0007
$\text{No}\{12\}!$	=	Noooooooooooooo!
$\backslash d\{3\} - \backslash d\{4\}$	=	555-5555, 123-4567, 384-1717
$\langle -\{2,6\} \rangle$	=	$\langle -- \rangle$, $\langle --- \rangle$, $\langle ---- \rangle$, $\langle ----- \rangle$ or $\langle ----- \rangle$
colou?r	=	colour or color
alumini?um	=	aluminum

a b c ...	=	lower case letters match themselves
A B C ...	=	UPPER case letters match themselves
1 2 3 ...	=	numbers match themselves
\cdot	=	any single character
$\backslash \cdot$	=	period
$[a b c]$	=	match one of these characters
$[\wedge a b c]$	=	don't match any of these characters
$[a - z]$	=	match any letter a through z
$[A - Z]$	=	match any letter A through Z
$[0 - 9]$	=	match any digit 0 through 9
$*$	=	repeat the character 0 or more times
$+$	=	repeat the character 1 or more times
$\{n\}$	=	repeat the character n times
$\{m,n\}$	=	repeat the character m through n times
$?$	=	the character is optional

Capture groups and the alternation operator

 or

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (abc) \\ (IMG)?\backslash d\backslash .jpg \\ (ei)\{2\}o \end{array} \right. = \begin{array}{l} abc \\ IMG2.jpg \text{ or } 7.jpg \\ \text{Old MacDonald had a farm...} \end{array}$

$(abc|123) = abc \text{ or } 123$
 $m(oo|ea)n = moon \text{ or } mean$
 $(1(0|1))\{2\} = 1010 \text{ or } 1011 \text{ or } 1110 \text{ or } 1111$

$a\ b\ c\ \dots = \text{lower case letters match themselves}$
 $A\ B\ C\ \dots = \text{UPPER case letters match themselves}$
 $1\ 2\ 3\ \dots = \text{numbers match themselves}$
 $\cdot = \text{any single character}$
 $\backslash \cdot = \text{period}$
 $[a\ b\ c] = \text{match one of these characters}$
 $[^a\ b\ c] = \text{don't match any of these characters}$
 $[a-z] = \text{match any letter a through z}$
 $[A-Z] = \text{match any letter A through Z}$
 $[0-9] = \text{match any digit 0 through 9}$
 $* = \text{repeat the character 0 or more times}$
 $+ = \text{repeat the character 1 or more times}$
 $\{n\} = \text{repeat the character } n \text{ times}$
 $\{m,n\} = \text{repeat the character } m \text{ through } n \text{ times}$
 $? = \text{the character is optional}$
 $\backslash w = \text{match any letter or number}$
 $\backslash d = \text{match any digit}$
 $\backslash D = \text{match any non-digit character}$

Building regexes

MacBookAir8,2	MacBookAir7,1	MacBookAir6,1
MacBookAir8,1	MacBookAir6,2	MacBookAir5,2
MacBookAir7,2	MacBookAir6,1	MacBookAir5,1
MacBookAir7,2	MacBookAir6,2	

MacBookAir[5-8],[12]

MacBookAir[5-8],(1|2)

a b c ...	=	lower case letters match themselves
A B C ...	=	UPPER case letters match themselves
1 2 3 ...	=	numbers match themselves
.	=	any single character
\.	=	period
[a b c]	=	match one of these characters
[^ a b c]	=	don't match any of these characters
[a - z]	=	match any letter a through z
[A - Z]	=	match any letter A through Z
[0 - 9]	=	match any digit 0 through 9
*	=	repeat the character 0 or more times
+	=	repeat the character 1 or more times
{n}	=	repeat the character n times
{m,n}	=	repeat the character m through n times
?	=	the character is optional
\w	=	match any letter or number
\d	=	match any digit
\D	=	match any non-digit character
(abc)	=	match the string in parentheses
(a b c)	=	or

Building regexes

10.11.0.99	10.11.0.25	10.20.0.5
10.11.0.100	10.11.0.50	10.20.0.40
10.11.0.132	10.11.0.150	10.20.0.122
10.11.0.200	10.11.0.200	10.20.0.179



10\\. (11|20)\\.0\\.\\d{1,3}

000 - 999

a b c ...	=	lower case letters match themselves
A B C ...	=	UPPER case letters match themselves
1 2 3 ...	=	numbers match themselves
.	=	any single character
\\.	=	period
[a b c]	=	match one of these characters
[^ a b c]	=	don't match any of these characters
[a - z]	=	match any letter a through z
[A - Z]	=	match any letter A through Z
[0 - 9]	=	match any digit 0 through 9
*	=	repeat the character 0 or more times
+	=	repeat the character 1 or more times
{ n }	=	repeat the character n times
{ m , n }	=	repeat the character m through n times
?	=	the character is optional
\\w	=	match any letter or number
\\d	=	match any digit
\\D	=	match any non-digit character
(abc)	=	match the string in parentheses
(a b c)	=	or

Building regexes

16.17

16.20.1

16.23.1

16.18

16.22

16.24

16.19

16.22.1

16.24.1

16.20

16.23

to 16.52

16\\. (1[7-9] | [2-4][0-9] | 5[0-2]) . *

17-19 20-49 50-52

a b c ...	=	lower case letters match themselves
A B C ...	=	UPPER case letters match themselves
1 2 3 ...	=	numbers match themselves
.	=	any single character
\\.	=	period
[a b c]	=	match one of these characters
[^a b c]	=	don't match any of these characters
[a - z]	=	match any letter a through z
[A - Z]	=	match any letter A through Z
[0 - 9]	=	match any digit 0 through 9
*	=	repeat the character 0 or more times
+	=	repeat the character 1 or more times
{n}	=	repeat the character n times
{m,n}	=	repeat the character m through n times
?	=	the character is optional
\\w	=	match any letter or number
\\d	=	match any digit
\\D	=	match any non-digit character
(abc)	=	match the string in parentheses
(a b c)	=	or

Agenda

What is regex?

Characters with special meanings

Character sets and grouping

Applications and command line tools that support regex

Examples from real world experiences

Regex resources

Agenda

What is regex?

Characters with special meanings

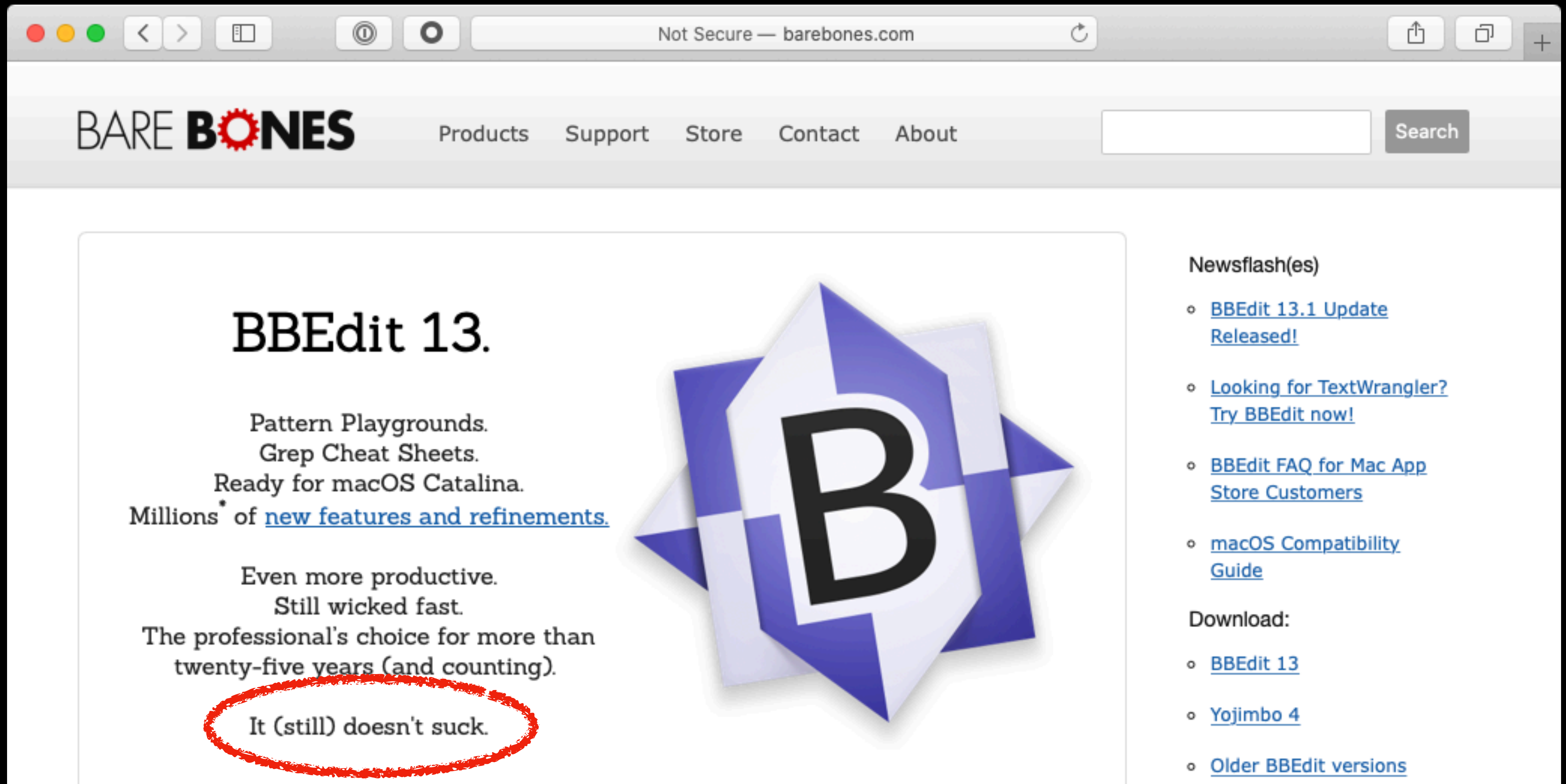
Character sets and grouping

Applications and command line tools that support regex

Examples from real world experiences

Regex resources

BBEdit from https://barebones.com



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "Not Secure — barebones.com". The website header features the "BARE BONES" logo, navigation links for "Products", "Support", "Store", "Contact", and "About", and a search bar. The main content area is titled "BBEdit 13." and lists features: "Pattern Playgrounds", "Grep Cheat Sheets", and "Ready for macOS Catalina." It also mentions "Millions* of [new features and refinements.](#)" and "Even more productive. Still wicked fast. The professional's choice for more than twenty-five years (and counting)." A red hand-drawn circle highlights the phrase "It (still) doesn't suck." To the right of the text is a large, stylized blue and white logo consisting of a star-like shape with a large black letter 'B' in the center. On the right side of the page, there is a "Newsflash(es)" section with a list of links: "BBEdit 13.1 Update Released!", "Looking for TextWrangler? Try BBEdit now!", "BBEdit FAQ for Mac App Store Customers", and "macOS Compatibility Guide". Below this is a "Download:" section with links for "BBEdit 13", "Yojimbo 4", and "Older BBEdit versions".

BARE BONES Products Support Store Contact About

BBEdit 13.

Pattern Playgrounds.
Grep Cheat Sheets.
Ready for macOS Catalina.
Millions* of [new features and refinements.](#)

Even more productive.
Still wicked fast.
The professional's choice for more than
twenty-five years (and counting).

It (still) doesn't suck.

Newsflash(es)

- [BBEdit 13.1 Update Released!](#)
- [Looking for TextWrangler? Try BBEdit now!](#)
- [BBEdit FAQ for Mac App Store Customers](#)
- [macOS Compatibility Guide](#)

Download:

- [BBEdit 13](#)
- [Yojimbo 4](#)
- [Older BBEdit versions](#)

Find

Find:

Replace:

Matching: ☐ Case sensitive ☐ Entire word ☒ Grep

Search in: ☐ Selected text only ☐ Wrap around

Next
Previous
First
Find All
Extract
Replace
Replace All
Replace & Find

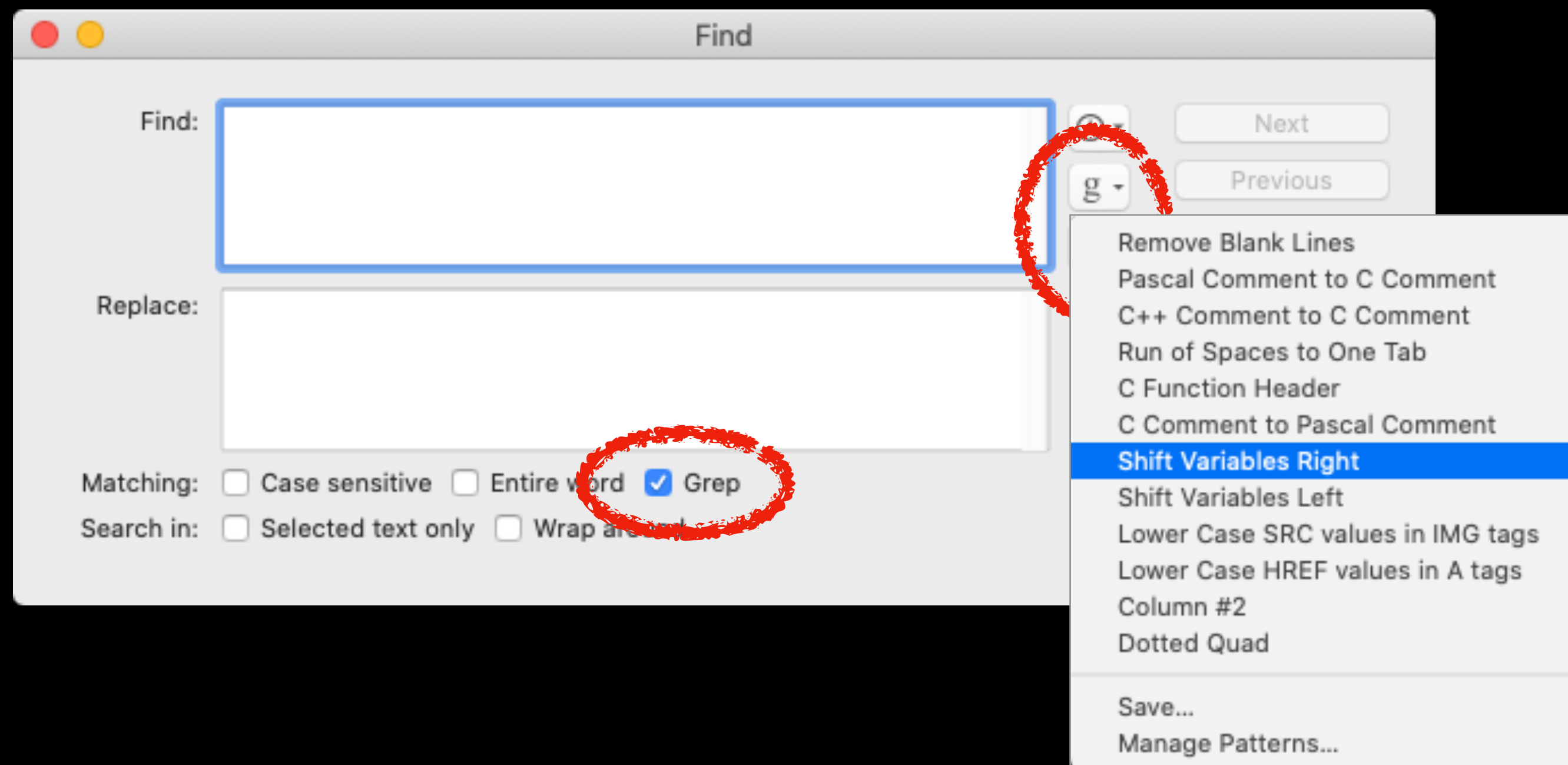
useless use
of "cat"



```
cat file.txt | grep dog
```

grep

(Global Regular Expression Print)



Find

Find:

(.*) (\\t\\t*)(.*)

Replace:

\\1\\2\\t\\3

Matching:

☐ Case sensitive

☐ Entire word

☒ Grep

Search in:

☐ Selected text only

☐ Wrap around

⌚

g

?

Next

Previous

First

Find All

Extract

Replace

Replace All

Replace & Find

Find:

(.*) (\t\t*) (.*)

g

Next

Previous

First

Replace:

\1\2\t\3

Matching:

☐ Case sensitive

☐ Entire word

☒ Grep

Search in:

☐ Selected text only

☐ Wrap around

abc123	literal text
\d	Any digit
\D	Any non-digit
.	Any character
\.	Period
[abc]	Character class (only a, b, or c)
[^abc]	Character class (anything but a, b, or c)
[a-z]	Character class (letters from a to z)
[0-9]	Character class (numbers from 0 to 9)
[0-9,a-f]	Character class (any hex digit)
[PARTY*PODS]	Character class (that's a literal asterisk!)
[[:xdigit:]]	Character class (POSIX hex digit)
[[:punct:]]	Character class (POSIX punctuation)
[[:^punct:]]	Character class (anything except punctuation)
\w	Any "word" (alphanumeric) character
\W	Any "non word" (punctuation, space, etc) character
{x}	Repeated X times
{x,y}	Repeated X to Y times
{x,}	Repeated at least X times
*	Repeated zero or more times
+	Repeated one or more times
?	Repeated zero or one times
\s	Any whitespace character (includes line breaks)
\S	Any non-whitespace character
\n	Character escape: new line
\t	Character escape: tab
\\	Character escape: literal backslash
\xNN	One-byte hex escape: general form
\x{NNNN}	Two-byte hex escape: general form
^	Match must occur at the beginning of a line
\$	Match must occur at the end of a line
\babc	Matches "abc" at the beginning of a word
abc\b	Matches "abc" at the end of a word
(abc)	Subpattern
(a(bc))	Nested subpattern
\1	Reference to subpattern #1
\2	Reference to subpattern #2
(?P<foo>abc)	Create named subpattern "foo" matching "abc"
(?P=foo)	Reference to named subpattern "foo"

Here's to the crazy ones.txt

~/Dropbox (Personal)/Presentations/PSU MacAdmins 2020/Here's to the crazy ones.txt

1
2
3 "Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square
... holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for
... the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing
... you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while
... some may see them as the the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to
... think they can change the world, are the ones who do."
4
5
6

L: 6 C: 1 Text File Unicode (UTF-8) Unix (LF) Saved: 6

Find

Find:

Replace:

Matching: ☐ Case sensitive ☐ Entire word ☒ Grep

Search in: ☐ Selected text only ☐ Wrap around

Next
Previous
First
Find All
Extract
Replace
Replace All
Replace & Find

Here's to the crazy ones.txt

~/Dropbox (Personal)/Presentations/PSU MacAdmins 2020/Here's to the crazy ones.txt

1
2
3 "Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square
... holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for
... the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing
... you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while
... some may see them as the the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to
... think they can change the world, are the ones who do."
4
5
6

L: 6 C: 1 Text File Unicode (UTF-8) Unix (LF) Saved: 6

Find

Find:

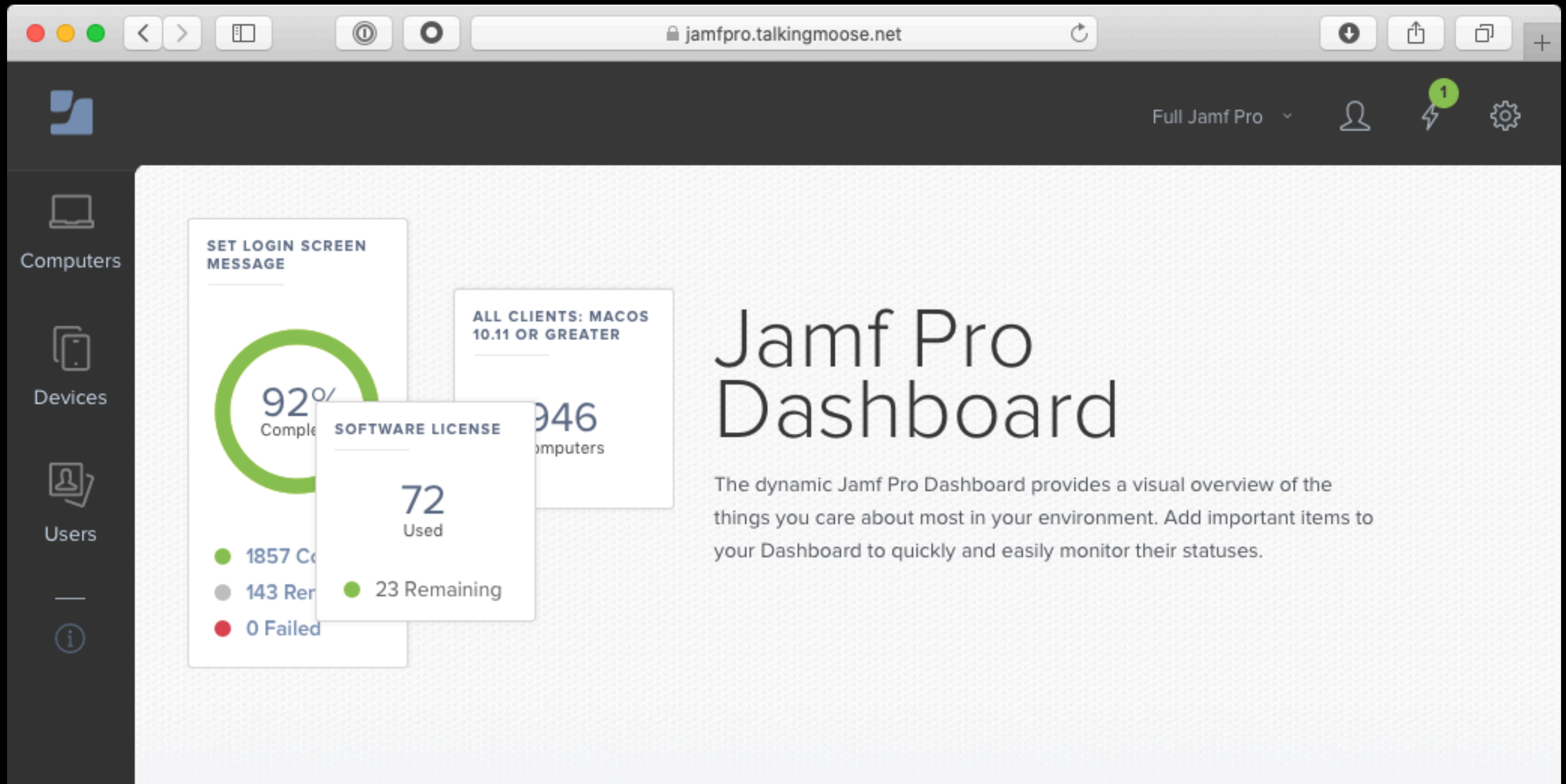
Replace:

Matching: ☐ Case sensitive ☐ Entire word ☒ Grep

Search in: ☐ Selected text only ☐ Wrap around

Next
Previous
First
Find All
Extract
Replace
Replace All
Replace & Find

Jamf Pro from <https://www.jamf.com>



Computers

Computers : Smart Computer Groups

← macOS Catalina Compatible Macs (identifiers)

Computer Group

Criteria

AND/OR		CRITERIA	OPERATOR	VALUE		
		Model Identifier	is	iMac13,1		Delete
or		Model Identifier	is	iMac13,2	...	Delete
or		Model Identifier	is	iMac14,1	...	Delete
or		Model Identifier	is	iMac14,3	...	Delete
or		Model Identifier	is	iMac14,2	...	Delete
or		Model Identifier	is	iMac14,4	...	Delete
or		Model Identifier	is	iMac15,1	...	Delete
or		Model Identifier	is	iMac16,1	...	Delete

MacBook Pro
(13-inch, 2020,
Two Thunderbolt 3
ports)

(MacBookAir[5-9]|MacBookPro(9|1[0-6])|MacPro[6-7]|iMac(Pro)?1[3-9]?|MacBook(10|9|8)|Macmini[6-8]),\d

62 Model Identifiers

iMac13,1	iMac19,1	MacBookAir7,2	MacBookPro11,3	MacBookPro15,4
iMac13,2	iMac19,2	MacBookAir7,2	MacBookPro11,4	MacBookPro16,1
iMac14,1	iMacPro1,1	MacBookAir8,1	MacBookPro11,5	MacBookPro16,2
iMac14,2	MacBook8,1	MacBookAir8,2	MacBookPro12,1	MacBookPro16,3
iMac14,3	MacBook9,1	MacBookAir9,1	MacBookPro13,1	Macmini6,1
iMac14,4	MacBook10,1	MacBookPro9,1	MacBookPro13,2	Macmini6,2
iMac15,1	MacBookAir5,1	MacBookPro9,2	MacBookPro13,3	Macmini7,1
iMac16,1	MacBookAir5,2	MacBookPro10,1	MacBookPro14,1	Macmini8,1
iMac16,2	MacBookAir6,1	MacBookPro10,1	MacBookPro14,2	MacPro6,1
iMac17,1	MacBookAir6,1	MacBookPro10,2	MacBookPro14,3	MacPro7,1
iMac18,1	MacBookAir6,2	MacBookPro11,1	MacBookPro15,1	
iMac18,2	MacBookAir6,2	MacBookPro11,1	MacBookPro15,2	
iMac18,3	MacBookAir7,1	MacBookPro11,2	MacBookPro15,3	

Full Jamf Pro

1

Computers : Smart Computer Groups

← macOS Catalina Compatible Macs (regex)

Computer Group

Criteria

AND/OR	CRITERIA	OPERATOR	VALUE		
	Model Identifier	matches regex	(MacBookAir[5-8	...	<div>▼</div> <div>Delete</div>
<div>+ Add</div>					

REGULAR EXPRESSION

62 matches (~0ms)

```
/[MacBookAir[5-9]|MacBookPro(9|1[0-6])|MacPro[6-7]|iMac(Pro)?1[3-9]?|MacBook(10|9|8)|Macmini[6-8]),\d/gm
```

TEST STRING

SWITCH TO UNIT TESTS ▶

https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201862

Supported:

MacBookAir9,1
MacBookAir8,2
MacBookAir8,1
MacBookAir7,2
MacBookAir7,2
MacBookAir7,1
MacBookAir6,2
MacBookAir6,1
MacBookAir6,2
MacBookAir6,1
MacBookAir5,2
MacBookAir5,1

Unsupported:

MacBookAir4,2
MacBookAir4,1
MacBookAir3,2
MacBookAir3,1
MacBookAir2,1
MacBookAir1,1

EXPLANATION

▼ / [MacBookAir[5-9]|MacBookPro(9|1[0-6])|MacPro[6-7]|iMac(Pro)?1[3-9]?|MacBook(10|9|8)|Macmini[6-8]),\d / gm

▼ 1st Capturing Group
[MacBookAir[5-9]|MacBookPro(9|1[0-6])|MacPro[6-7]|iMac(Pro)?1[3-9]?|MacBook(10|9|8)|Macmini[6-8])
▼ 1st Alternative MacBookAir[5-9]
MacBookAir matches the characters **MacBookAir** literally (case sensitive)
▼ Match a single character present in the list below
[5-9]

MATCH INFORMATION

Match 16

Full match	670-684	MacBookPro16,3
Group 1.	n/a	MacBookPro16
Group 2.	n/a	16

Match 17

Full match	685-699	MacBookPro16,2
Group 1.	n/a	MacBookPro16
Group 2.	n/a	16

grep

```
grep "Pro" model-identifiers.txt
```

iMac13,1	iMac19,1	MacBookAir7,2	MacBookPro11,3	MacBookPro15,4
iMac13,2	iMac19,2	MacBookAir7,2	MacBookPro11,4	MacBookPro16,1
iMac14,1	iMacPro1,1	MacBookAir8,1	MacBookPro11,5	MacBookPro16,2
iMac14,2	MacBook8,1	MacBookAir8,2	MacBookPro12,1	MacBookPro16,3
iMac14,3	MacBook9,1	MacBookAir9,1	MacBookPro13,1	Macmini6,1
iMac14,4	MacBook10,1	MacBookPro9,1	MacBookPro13,2	Macmini6,2
iMac15,1	MacBookAir5,1	MacBookPro9,2	MacBookPro13,3	Macmini7,1
iMac16,1	MacBookAir5,2	MacBookPro10,1	MacBookPro14,1	Macmini8,1
iMac16,2	MacBookAir6,1	MacBookPro10,1	MacBookPro14,2	MacPro6,1
iMac17,1	MacBookAir6,1	MacBookPro10,2	MacBookPro14,3	MacPro7,1
iMac18,1	MacBookAir6,2	MacBookPro11,1	MacBookPro15,1	
iMac18,2	MacBookAir6,2	MacBookPro11,1	MacBookPro15,2	
iMac18,3	MacBookAir7,1	MacBookPro11,2	MacBookPro15,3	

grep

grep "Pro" model-identifiers.txt

iMac13,1	iMac19,1	MacBookAir7,2	MacBookPro11,3	MacBookPro15,4
iMac13,2	iMac19,2	MacBookAir7,2	MacBookPro11,4	MacBookPro16,1
iMac14,1	iMacPro1,1	MacBookAir8,1	MacBookPro11,5	MacBookPro16,2
iMac14,2	MacBook8,1	MacBookAir8,2	MacBookPro12,1	MacBookPro16,3
iMac14,3	MacBook9,1	MacBookAir9,1	MacBookPro13,1	Macmini6,1
iMac14,4	MacBook10,1	MacBookPro9,1	MacBookPro13,2	Macmini6,2
iMac15,1	MacBookAir5,1	MacBookPro9,2	MacBookPro13,3	Macmini7,1
iMac16,1	MacBookAir5,2	MacBookPro10,1	MacBookPro14,1	Macmini8,1
iMac16,2	MacBookAir6,1	MacBookPro10,1	MacBookPro14,2	MacPro6,1
iMac17,1	MacBookAir6,1	MacBookPro10,2	MacBookPro14,3	MacPro7,1
iMac18,1	MacBookAir6,2	MacBookPro11,1	MacBookPro15,1	
iMac18,2	MacBookAir6,2	MacBookPro11,1	MacBookPro15,2	
iMac18,3	MacBookAir7,1	MacBookPro11,2	MacBookPro15,3	

grep

```
grep "Pro" model-identifiers.txt
```

iMacPro1,1	MacBookPro13,1	MacPro6,1
MacBookPro9,1	MacBookPro13,2	MacPro7,1
MacBookPro9,2	MacBookPro13,3	
MacBookPro10,1	MacBookPro14,1	
MacBookPro10,1	MacBookPro14,2	
MacBookPro10,2	MacBookPro14,3	
MacBookPro11,1	MacBookPro15,1	
MacBookPro11,1	MacBookPro15,2	
MacBookPro11,2	MacBookPro15,3	
MacBookPro11,3	MacBookPro15,4	
MacBookPro11,4	MacBookPro16,1	
MacBookPro11,5	MacBookPro16,2	
MacBookPro12,1	MacBookPro16,3	

grep

```
grep "Pro1[2-6]," model-identifiers.txt
```

iMacPro1,1	MacBookPro13,1	MacPro6,1
MacBookPro9,1	MacBookPro13,2	MacPro7,1
MacBookPro9,2	MacBookPro13,3	
MacBookPro10,1	MacBookPro14,1	
MacBookPro10,1	MacBookPro14,2	
MacBookPro10,2	MacBookPro14,3	
MacBookPro11,1	MacBookPro15,1	
MacBookPro11,1	MacBookPro15,2	
MacBookPro11,2	MacBookPro15,3	
MacBookPro11,3	MacBookPro15,4	
MacBookPro11,4	MacBookPro16,1	
MacBookPro11,5	MacBookPro16,2	
MacBookPro12,1	MacBookPro16,3	

grep

```
grep "Pro1[2-6]," model-identifiers.txt
```

MacBookPro12,1
MacBookPro13,1
MacBookPro13,2
MacBookPro13,3
MacBookPro14,1
MacBookPro14,2
MacBookPro14,3
MacBookPro15,1
MacBookPro15,2
MacBookPro15,3
MacBookPro15,4
MacBookPro16,1
MacBookPro16,2

MacBookPro16,3

grep

```
grep "Pro(1[2-6]|\d)," model-identifiers.txt
```

grep

grep -E

grep --extended-regexp

(+, ?, |, (,))

grep -E

```
grep "Pro(1[2-6]|\d)," model-identifiers.txt
```


grep -E

```
grep -E "Pro(1[2-6]|\d)," model-identifiers.txt
```

iMacPro1,1	MacBookPro16,2
MacBookPro12,1	MacBookPro16,3
MacBookPro13,1	MacPro6,1
MacBookPro13,2	MacPro7,1
MacBookPro13,3	
MacBookPro14,1	
MacBookPro14,2	
MacBookPro14,3	
MacBookPro15,1	
MacBookPro15,2	
MacBookPro15,3	
MacBookPro15,4	
MacBookPro16,1	

grep -E

grep -E = egrep

awk

awk

```
awk -F "," '{ print $4 }' assets-list.csv
```

```
C02X84E1JHF4,"MacBookPro16,3",Customer Service  
C02X84E1JHF5,"MacBookPro10,2",Customer Service  
C02X84E1JHF6,"MacBookPro10,1",Marketing  
C02X84E1JHF7,"MacBookPro11,2",Customer Service  
C02X84E1JHF8,"MacBookPro10,2",Marketing  
C02X84E1JHF9,"MacBookPro10,1",Marketing  
C02X84E1JHF0,"MacBookPro10,1",Customer Service  
C02X84E1JHF1,"MacBookPro12,1",Customer Service  
C02X84E1JHF2,"MacBookPro11,2",Customer Service  
C02X84E1JHF3,"MacBookPro6,1",Sales
```

awk

```
awk -F "," '{ print $4 }' assets-list.csv
```

C02X84E1JHF4,"MacBookPro16,3",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF5,"MacBookPro10,2",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF6,"MacBookPro10,1",Marketing
C02X84E1JHF7,"MacBookPro11,2",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF8,"MacBookPro10,2",Marketing
C02X84E1JHF9,"MacBookPro10,1",Marketing
C02X84E1JHF0,"MacBookPro10,1",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF1,"MacBookPro12,1",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF2,"MacBookPro11,2",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF3,"MacBookPro6,1",Sales

\$1 \$2 \$3 \$4

awk

```
awk -F "," '{ print $4 }' assets-list.csv
```

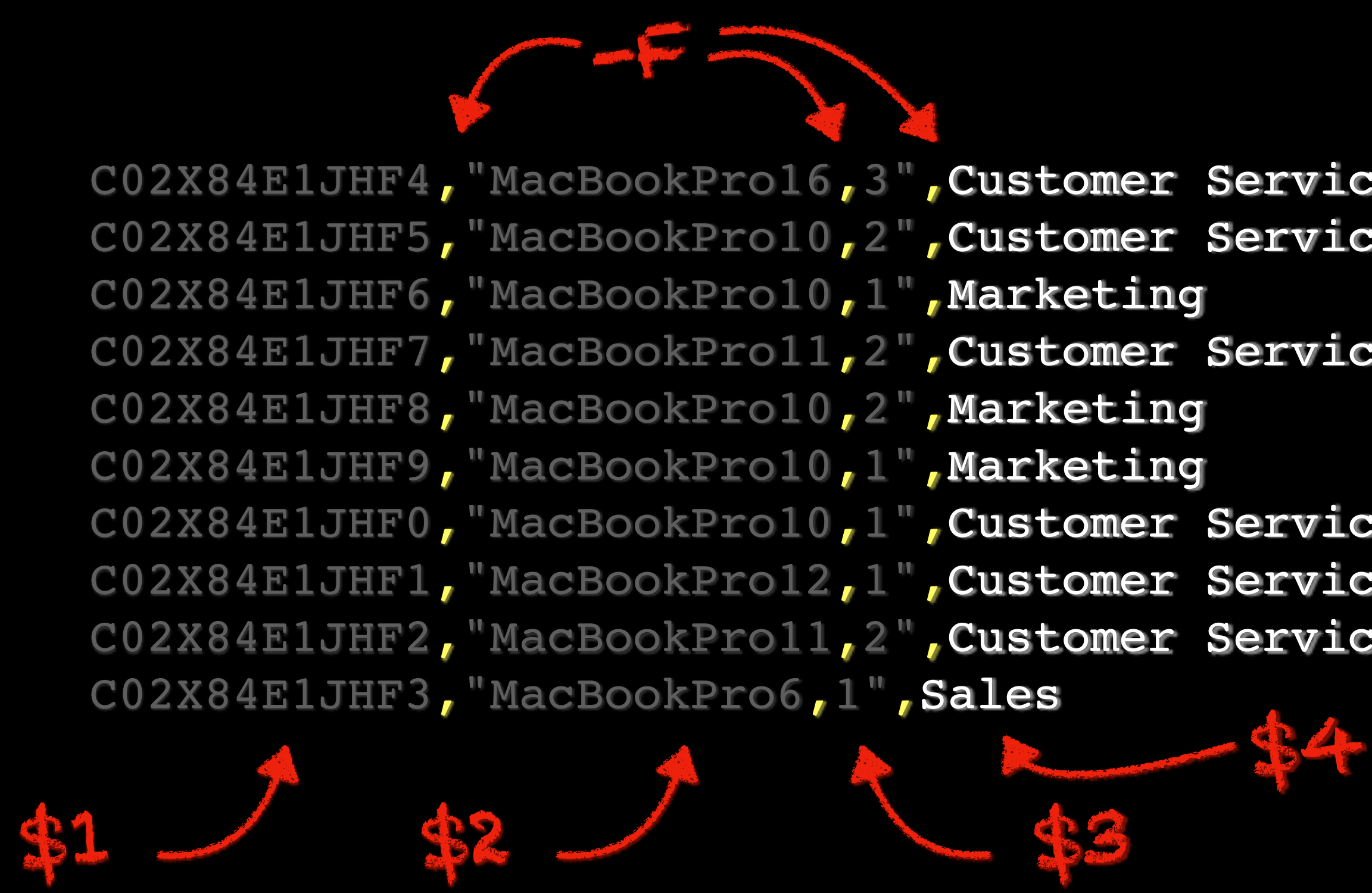
C02X84E1JHF4,"MacBookPro16,3",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF5,"MacBookPro10,2",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF6,"MacBookPro10,1",Marketing
C02X84E1JHF7,"MacBookPro11,2",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF8,"MacBookPro10,2",Marketing
C02X84E1JHF9,"MacBookPro10,1",Marketing
C02X84E1JHF0,"MacBookPro10,1",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF1,"MacBookPro12,1",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF2,"MacBookPro11,2",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF3,"MacBookPro6,1",Sales

\$1 \$2 \$3 \$4

awk

doesn't
match

```
awk -F "," '$2 !~ /MacBookPro1[1-9]/ { print $4 }' assets-list.csv
```




The diagram illustrates the awk command's field splitting behavior. A red arrow labeled `-F` points from the field separator in the command to the first field of the first line of the CSV data. Below the data, red arrows labeled `$1`, `$2`, `$3`, and `$4` point to the respective fields of the first line. The first line is `C02X84E1JHF4,"MacBookPro16,3",Customer Service`. The second line is `C02X84E1JHF5,"MacBookPro10,2",Customer Service`. The third line is `C02X84E1JHF6,"MacBookPro10,1",Marketing`. The fourth line is `C02X84E1JHF7,"MacBookPro11,2",Customer Service`. The fifth line is `C02X84E1JHF8,"MacBookPro10,2",Marketing`. The sixth line is `C02X84E1JHF9,"MacBookPro10,1",Marketing`. The seventh line is `C02X84E1JHF0,"MacBookPro10,1",Customer Service`. The eighth line is `C02X84E1JHF1,"MacBookPro12,1",Customer Service`. The ninth line is `C02X84E1JHF2,"MacBookPro11,2",Customer Service`. The tenth line is `C02X84E1JHF3,"MacBookPro6,1",Sales`.

Line	\$1	\$2	\$3	\$4
1	C02X84E1JHF4	"MacBookPro16,3"	Customer	Service
2	C02X84E1JHF5	"MacBookPro10,2"	Customer	Service
3	C02X84E1JHF6	"MacBookPro10,1"	Marketing	
4	C02X84E1JHF7	"MacBookPro11,2"	Customer	Service
5	C02X84E1JHF8	"MacBookPro10,2"	Marketing	
6	C02X84E1JHF9	"MacBookPro10,1"	Marketing	
7	C02X84E1JHF0	"MacBookPro10,1"	Customer	Service
8	C02X84E1JHF1	"MacBookPro12,1"	Customer	Service
9	C02X84E1JHF2	"MacBookPro11,2"	Customer	Service
10	C02X84E1JHF3	"MacBookPro6,1"	Sales	

awk

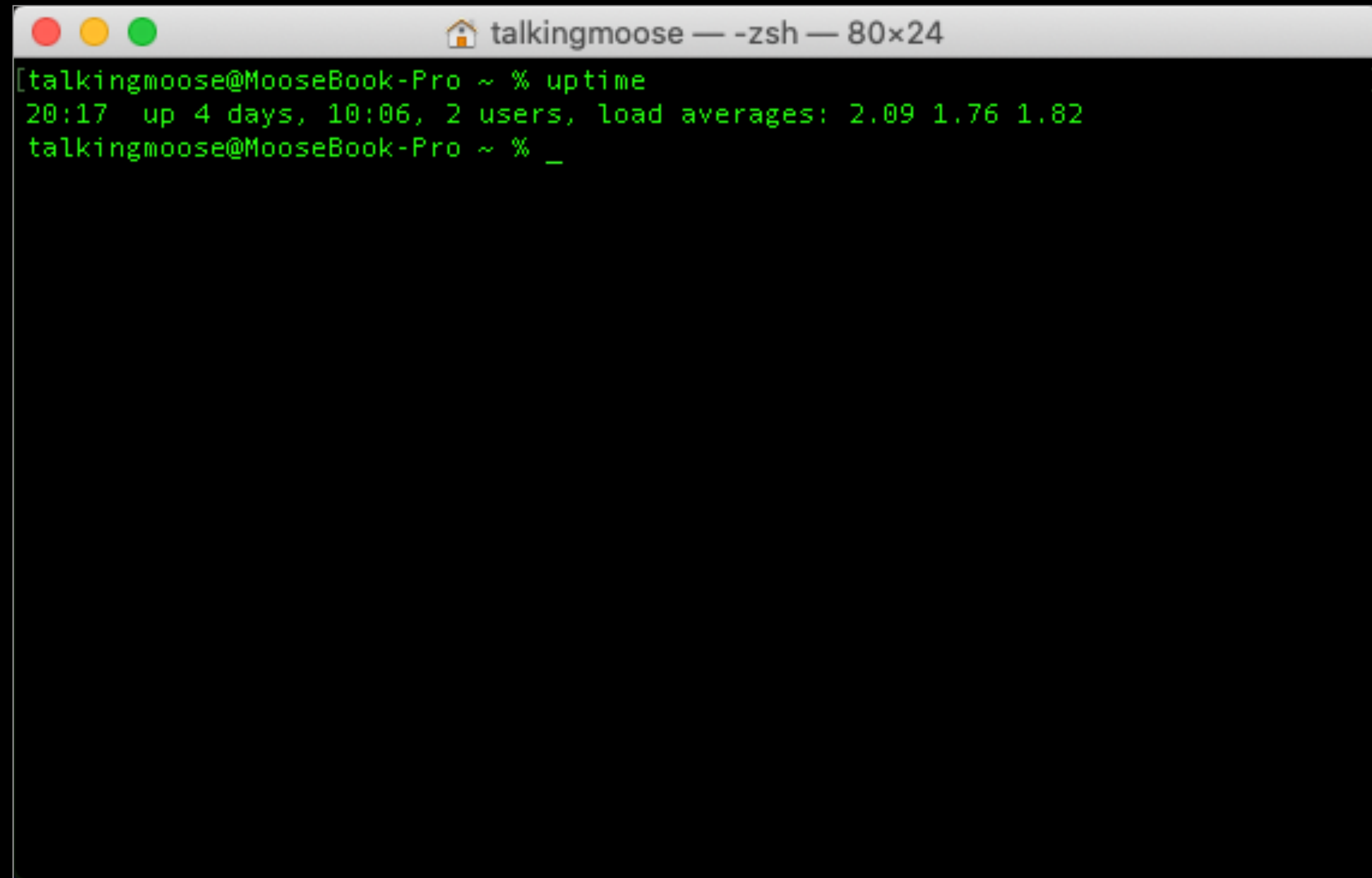
doesn't
match

```
awk -F "," '$2 !~ /MacBookPro1[1-9]/ { print $4 }' assets-list.csv
```



C02X84E1JHF4,"MacBookPro16,3",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF5,"MacBookPro10,2",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF6,"MacBookPro10,1",Marketing
C02X84E1JHF7,"MacBookPro11,2",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF8,"MacBookPro10,2",Marketing
C02X84E1JHF9,"MacBookPro10,1",Marketing
C02X84E1JHF0,"MacBookPro10,1",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF1,"MacBookPro12,1",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF2,"MacBookPro11,2",Customer Service
C02X84E1JHF3,"MacBookPro6,1",Sales

awk



```

talkingmoose — -zsh — 80x24
[talkingmoose@MooseBook-Pro ~ % uptime
20:17 up 4 days, 10:06, 2 users, load averages: 2.09 1.76 1.82
talkingmoose@MooseBook-Pro ~ % _

```

A terminal window titled "talkingmoose — -zsh — 80x24" with standard macOS window controls (red, yellow, green buttons). The terminal shows the command `uptime` being executed, resulting in the output: `20:17 up 4 days, 10:06, 2 users, load averages: 2.09 1.76 1.82`. The prompt then returns to `talkingmoose@MooseBook-Pro ~ %` with a cursor.

awk

```
17:00 up 5 days, 51 mins, 2 users..  
17.10 up 5 days, 1:01, 2 users..  
17:00 up 51 secs, 2 users..  
17:00 up 2 mins, 2 users..  
17:00 up 1:01, 2 users..
```

awk

```
uptime | awk -F "(up |, [0-9]+ users)" '{ print $2 }'
```

```
17:00 up 5 days, 51 mins, 2 users...  
17:10 up 5 days, 1:01, 2 users...  
17:00 up 51 secs, 2 users...  
17:00 up 2 mins, 2 users...  
17:00 up 1:01, 2 users...
```

sed

sed

```
echo "Martin's MacBook Pro" | sed 's/[^0-9A-Za-z]*//g'
```

Martin's MacBook Pro

sed

```
echo "Martin's MacBook Pro" | sed 's/[^0-9A-Za-z]*//g'
```

MartinsMacBookPro

Agenda

What is regex?

Characters with special meanings

Character sets and grouping

Applications and command line tools that support regex

Examples from real world experiences

Regex resources

Agenda

What is regex?

Characters with special meanings

Character sets and grouping

Applications and command line tools that support regex

Examples from real world experiences

Regex resources

Naming computers

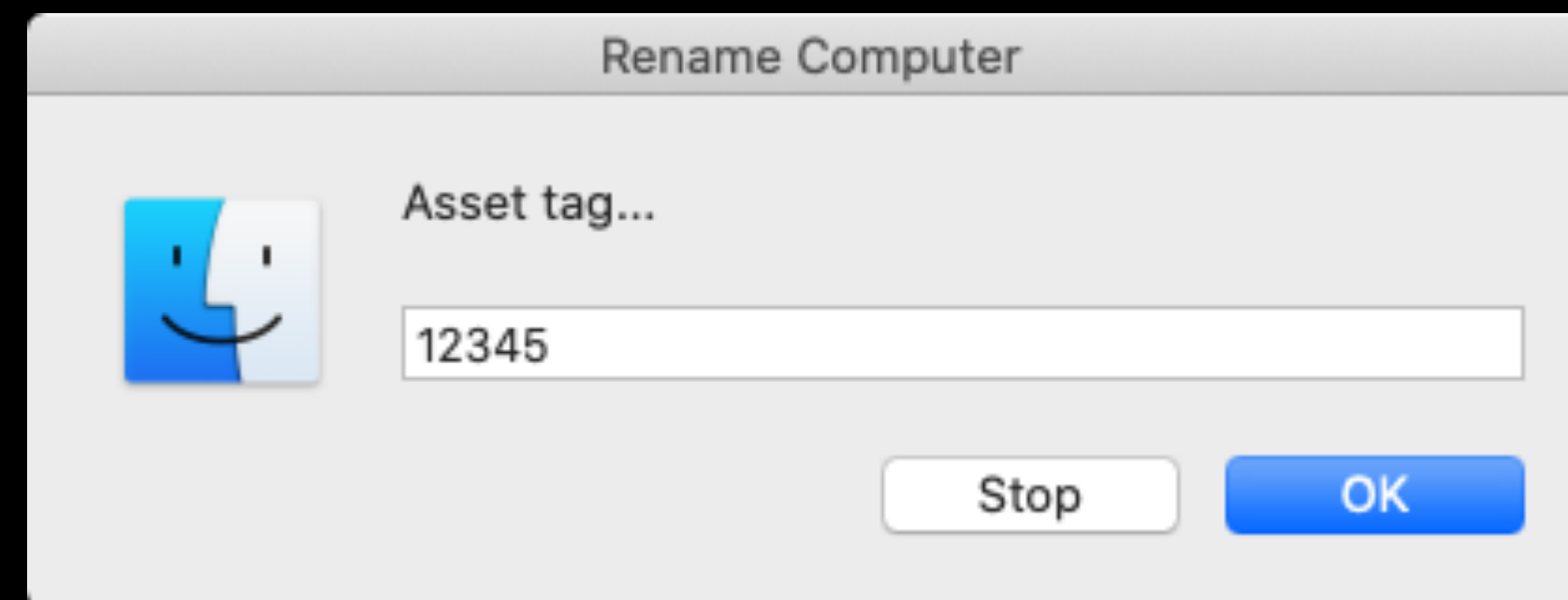
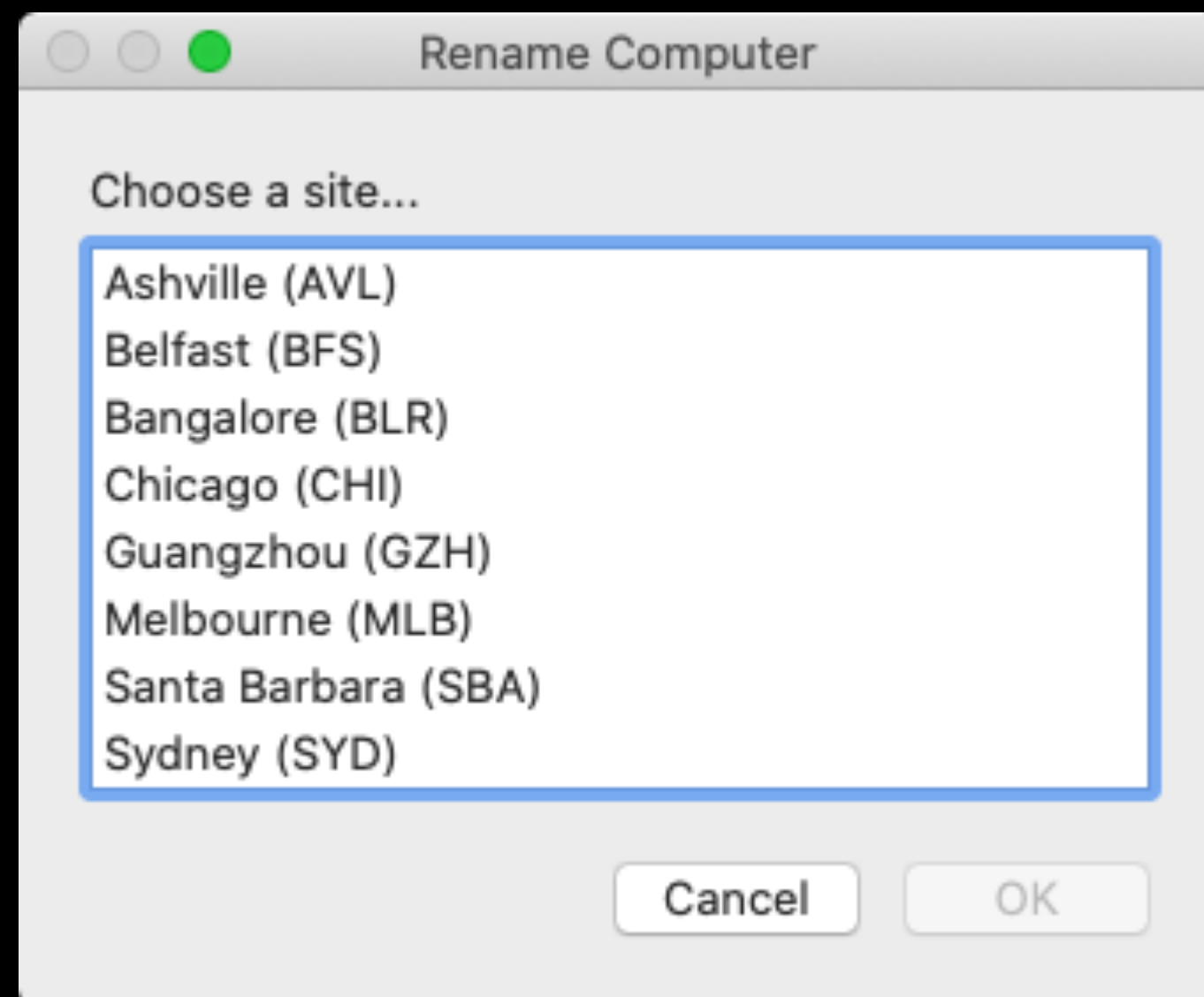
CHI-MAC-1JHD3

Prometheus

Admin's MacBook Pro

Naming computers

CHI-MAC-12345



Naming computers

Smart Computer Group 1

`(AVL|BFS|BLR|CHI|GZH|MLB|SBA|SYD)-MAC-[A-Z\d]{5}` 420

Smart Computer Group 2

`(AVL|BFS|BLR|CHI|GZH|MLB|SBA|SYD)-MAC-\d{5}` 20

Smart Computer Group 3

Doesn't match smart group 1 and

Doesn't match smart group 2

452 32
!= 472

Naming computers

Smart Computer Group 1

(AVL | BFS | BLR | CHI | GZH | MLB | SBA | SYD) - MAC - \w* [A-Z] \w* 400

Smart Computer Group 2

(AVL | BFS | BLR | CHI | GZH | MLB | SBA | SYD) - MAC - \d{5} 20

Smart Computer Group 3

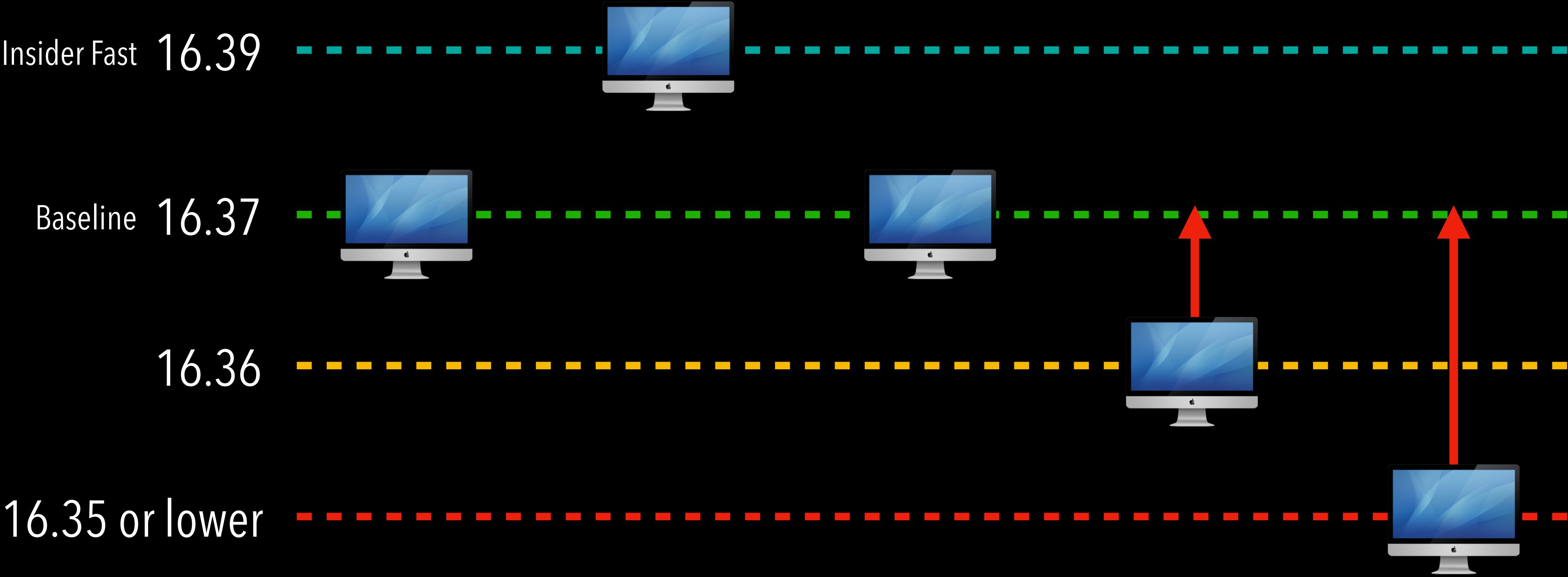
Doesn't match smart group 1 and

Doesn't match smart group 2

452 = 32
452

Software version numbers

Microsoft Office 2019



Software version numbers

Update all Macs
to 16.37 or higher.

Software version numbers

All Macs ≥ 16.37

All Macs < 16.37

Software version ~~numbers~~ strings

Computers : Smart Computer Groups

← Microsoft Office 2019 Up-to-date

Computer Group Criteria

AND/OR		CRITERIA	OPERATOR	VALUE
	▼	Application Title	is ▼	Microsoft Word.app
and ▼	▼	Application Version	<div>✓ is is not like not like matches regex does not match regex</div>	16.37

Software version ~~numbers~~ strings

$16.37 < 16.38$

number 16.37 ? 16.37.1 string

Customer: "Of course it's a number!"

Me: "When did any number ever contain two decimals?"

Software version ~~numbers~~ strings

Microsoft Office 2019 – 16.37.1

Google Chrome – 79.0.3945.117

Mozilla Firefox – 74.0.1

Citrix Workspace – 19.10.2.41

Adobe Acrobat Reader DC – 20.006.20034

Adobe Photoshop 2020 – 21.0.3

Microsoft Defender – 100.86.91

Zoom.us – 5.0.3 (24978.0517)

Software version ~~numbers~~ strings

Microsoft Office 2019 – 16.37.1

Google Chrome – 79.0.3945.117

Mozilla Firefox – 74.0.1

Citrix Workspace – 19.10.2.41

Adobe Acrobat Reader DC – 20.006.20034

Adobe Photoshop 2020 – 21.0.3

Microsoft Defender – 100.86.91

Zoom.us – 5.0.3 (24978.0517)

Software version ~~numbers~~ *strings*

Google Chrome – 79.0.3945.117

Software version ~~numbers~~ *strings*

79.0.3945.117

Software version ~~numbers~~ *strings*

79.0.3945.11[7-9]

Software version ~~numbers~~ *strings*

79.0.3945.1[2-9][7-9]

Software version ~~numbers~~ *strings*

79.0.3945.1([2-9]|[7-9])

Software version ~~numbers~~ strings

79.0.3945.1([2-9]\d|[7-9])

Software version ~~numbers~~ strings

79.0.3945.1([2-9]\d|1[7-9])

Software version ~~numbers~~ *strings*

79.0.3945.117

Software version ~~numbers~~ *strings*

79.0.3945.\d{4,}

Software version ~~numbers~~ *strings*

79\0\3945\.\d{4,}

Software version ~~numbers~~ *strings*

79.0.3945.117

Software version ~~numbers~~ strings

79.0.3945.117

```
^(\\d{3,}\\.|[8-9]\\d{1,}\\.|79\\.\\d{2,}\\.|79\\.
[1-9]\\.|79\\.0\\.\\d{5,}\\.|79\\.0\\. [4-9]\\d{3,}\\.|79\\.
0\\.39[5-9]\\d{1,}\\.|79\\.0\\.394[6-9]\\.|79\\.0\\.
3945\\.\\d{4,}\\.|79\\.0\\.3945\\. [2-9]\\d{2,}\\.|79\\.
0\\.3945\\.1[2-9]\\d{1,}\\.|79\\.0\\.3945\\.11[8-9]\\.|
79\\.0\\.3945\\.117\\.)*$
```

Software version ~~numbers~~ strings

```
Desktop — -zsh — 84x24
[talkingmoose@MooseBook-Pro Desktop % ./match-version-or-higher.bash 79.0.3945.117 ]

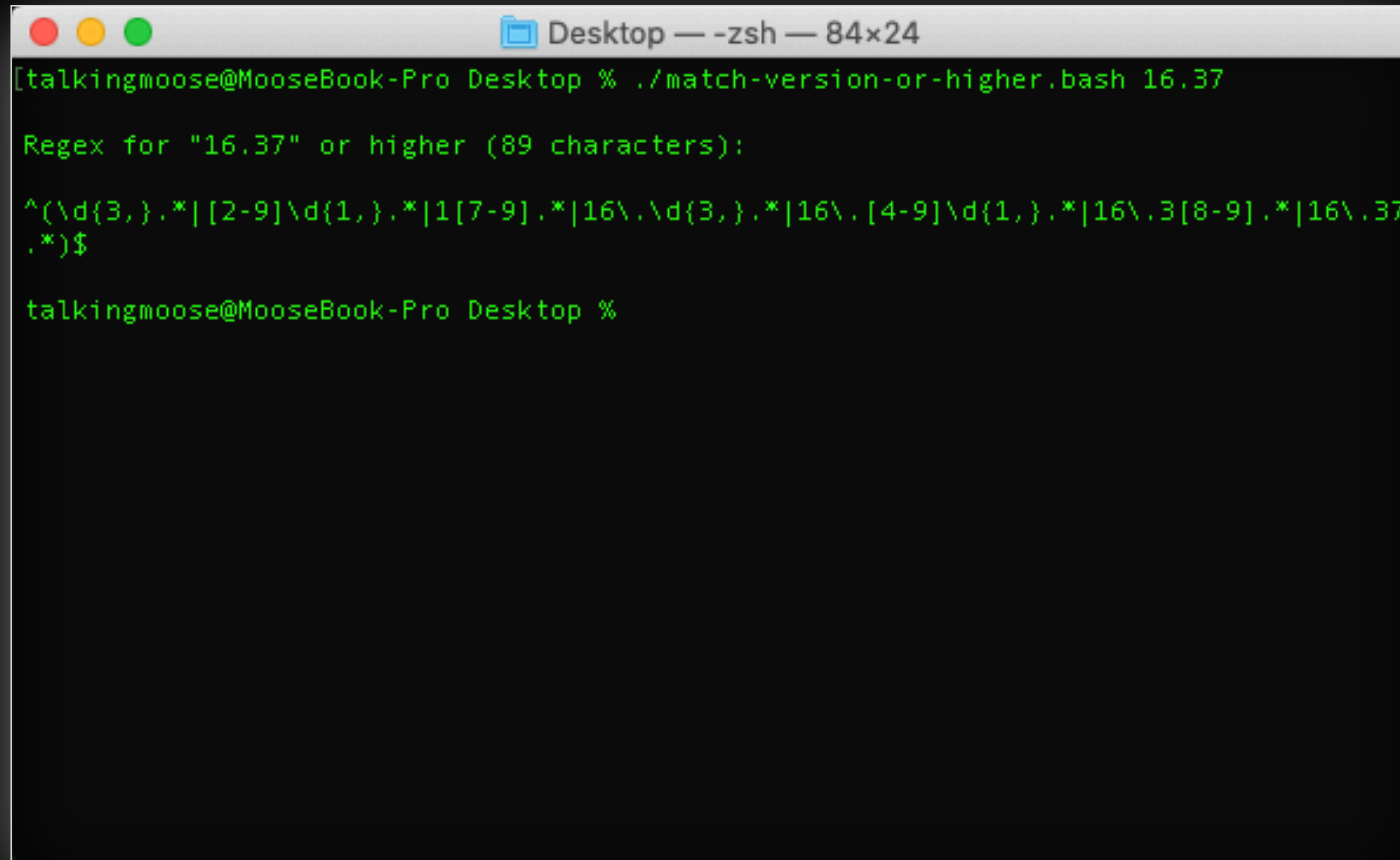
Regex for "79.0.3945.117" or higher (249 characters):

^(\d{3,}.*|[8-9]\d{1,}.*|79\.\d{2,}.*|79\.[1-9].*|79\.0\.\d{5,}.*|79\.0\.[4-9]\d{3,}
.*|79\.0\.39[5-9]\d{1,}.*|79\.0\.394[6-9].*|79\.0\.3945\.\d{4,}.*|79\.0\.3945\.[2-9]
\d{2,}.*|79\.0\.3945\.1[2-9]\d{1,}.*|79\.0\.3945\.11[8-9].*|79\.0\.3945\.117.*)$

talkingmoose@MooseBook-Pro Desktop % _
```

Match Version Number or Higher – <https://gist.github.com/talkingmoose/2cf20236e665fcd7ec41311d50c89c0e>

Software version ~~numbers~~ strings



```
Desktop — -zsh — 84x24
[talkingmoose@MooseBook-Pro Desktop % ./match-version-or-higher.bash 16.37]

Regex for "16.37" or higher (89 characters):

^(\d{3,}.*|[2-9]\d{1,}.*|1[7-9].*|16\.\d{3,}.*|16\.[4-9]\d{1,}.*|16\.3[8-9].*|16\.37
.*)$

talkingmoose@MooseBook-Pro Desktop %
```

Match Version Number or Higher – <https://gist.github.com/talkingmoose/2cf20236e665fcd7ec41311d50c89c0e>

Software version ~~numbers~~ strings

```
Desktop — -zsh — 84x24
[talkingmoose@MooseBook-Pro Desktop % ./match-version-or-higher.bash 20.006.20034]

=====

WARNING

This version string contains non-standard
characters or number sequences that begin
with a zero (i.e. "0123", which is the
same as "123").

Use regexes with caution.

=====

Regex for "20.006.20034" or higher (254 characters):
^(\d{3,}.*|[3-9]\d{1,}.*|2[1-9].*|20\\.\\d{4,}.*|20\\. [1-9]\\d{2,}.*|20\\.0[1-9]\\d{1,}.*|
20\\.00[7-9].*|20\\.006\\.\\d{6,}.*|20\\.006\\. [3-9]\\d{4,}.*|20\\.006\\.2[1-9]\\d{3,}.*|20\\.0
06\\.20[1-9]\\d{2,}.*|20\\.006\\.200[4-9]\\d{1,}.*|20\\.006\\.2003[5-9].*|20\\.006\\.20034.*)
$

talkingmoose@MooseBook-Pro Desktop %
```

Match Version Number or Higher – <https://gist.github.com/talkingmoose/2cf20236e665fcd7ec41311d50c89c0e>

Software version ~~numbers~~ strings

```
Desktop — -zsh — 84x24
[talkingmoose@MooseBook-Pro Desktop % ./match-version-or-higher.bash "5.0.3 (24978.0517)"]

=====

WARNING

This version string contains non-standard
characters or number sequences that begin
with a zero (i.e. "0123", which is the
same as "123").

Use regexes with caution.

=====

Regex for "5.0.3 (24978.0517)" or higher (362 characters):

^(\d{2,}.*|[6-9].*|5\\.\\d{2,}.*|5\\. [1-9].*|5\\.0\\.\\d{2,}.*|5\\.0\\. [4-9].*|5\\.0\\.3 \\\d{
6,}.*|5\\.0\\.3 \\\d{3-9}\d{4,}.*|5\\.0\\.3 \\\d{2[5-9]\d{3,}}.*|5\\.0\\.3 \\\d{249[8-9]\d{1,}}.*|5\
.0\\.3 \\\d{24979.*|5\\.0\\.3 \\\d{24978\\.\\d{5,}}.*|5\\.0\\.3 \\\d{24978\\. [1-9]\d{3,}}.*|5\\.0\\.3 \\\d{2
4978\\.0[6-9]\d{2,}}.*|5\\.0\\.3 \\\d{24978\\.05[2-9]\d{1,}}.*|5\\.0\\.3 \\\d{24978\\.051[8-9].*|5\
.0\\.3 \\\d{24978\\.0517\\}.*)$
```

Match Version Number or Higher – <https://gist.github.com/talkingmoose/2cf20236e665fcd7ec41311d50c89c0e>

Agenda

What is regex?

Characters with special meanings

Character sets and grouping

Applications and command line tools that support regex

Examples from real world experiences

Regex resources

Agenda

What is regex?

Characters with special meanings

Character sets and grouping

Applications and command line tools that support regex

Examples from real world experiences

Regex resources



Lesson 1: An Introduction, and the ABCs

Regular expressions are extremely useful in extracting information from text such as code, log files, spreadsheets, or even documents. And while there is a lot of theory behind formal languages, the following lessons and examples will explore the more practical uses of regular expressions so that you can use them as quickly as possible.

The first thing to recognize when using regular expressions is that **everything is essentially a character**, and we are writing patterns to match a specific sequence of characters (also known as a string). Most patterns use normal ASCII, which includes letters, digits, punctuation and other symbols on your keyboard like %#\$@!, but unicode characters can also be used to match any type of international text.

Below are a couple lines of text, notice how the text changes to highlight the matching characters on each line as you type in the input field below. To continue to the next lesson, you will need to use the new syntax and concept introduced in each lesson to write a pattern that matches all the lines provided.

Go ahead and try writing a pattern that matches all three rows, it may be as simple as the common letters on each line.

Exercise 1: Matching Characters

Task	Text
------	------

Match	abcdefg
-------	---------

Match	abcde
-------	-------

Lesson Notes

abc...	Letters
123...	Digits
\d	Any Digit
\D	Any Non-digit character
.	Any Character
\.	Period
[abc]	Only a, b, or c
[^abc]	Not a, b, nor c
[a-z]	Characters a to z
[0-9]	Numbers 0 to 9
\w	Any Alphanumeric character
\W	Any Non-alphanumeric character
{m}	m Repetitions
{m,n}	m to n Repetitions
*	Zero or more repetitions
+	One or more repetitions
?	Optional character
\s	Any Whitespace
\S	Any Non-whitespace character
^...\$	Starts and ends
(...)	Capture Group
(a(bc))	Capture Sub-group
(*)	Capture all

Regular-Expressions.info

Quick Start

Tutorial

Tools & Languages

Examples

Reference

Book Reviews

Welcome

[Regular Expressions Quick Start](#)

[Regular Expressions Tutorial](#)

[Replacement Strings Tutorial](#)

[Applications and Languages](#)

[Regular Expressions Examples](#)

[Regular Expressions Reference](#)

[Replacement Strings Reference](#)

[Book Reviews](#)

[Printable PDF](#)

[About This Site](#)

[RSS Feed & Blog](#)



RegexBuddy

Developed by the author of this website, RegexBuddy makes learning and using regular expressions easier than ever. Compose and analyze regex patterns with RegexBuddy's easy-to-grasp regex blocks and intuitive regex tree, instead of or in combination with the traditional regular expression syntax.

Welcome to Regular-Expressions.info The Premier website about Regular Expressions

A regular expression (regex or regexp for short) is a special text string for describing a search pattern. You can think of regular expressions as wildcards on steroids. You are probably familiar with wildcard notations such as *.txt to find all text files in a file manager. The regex equivalent is `^.*\..txt$`.

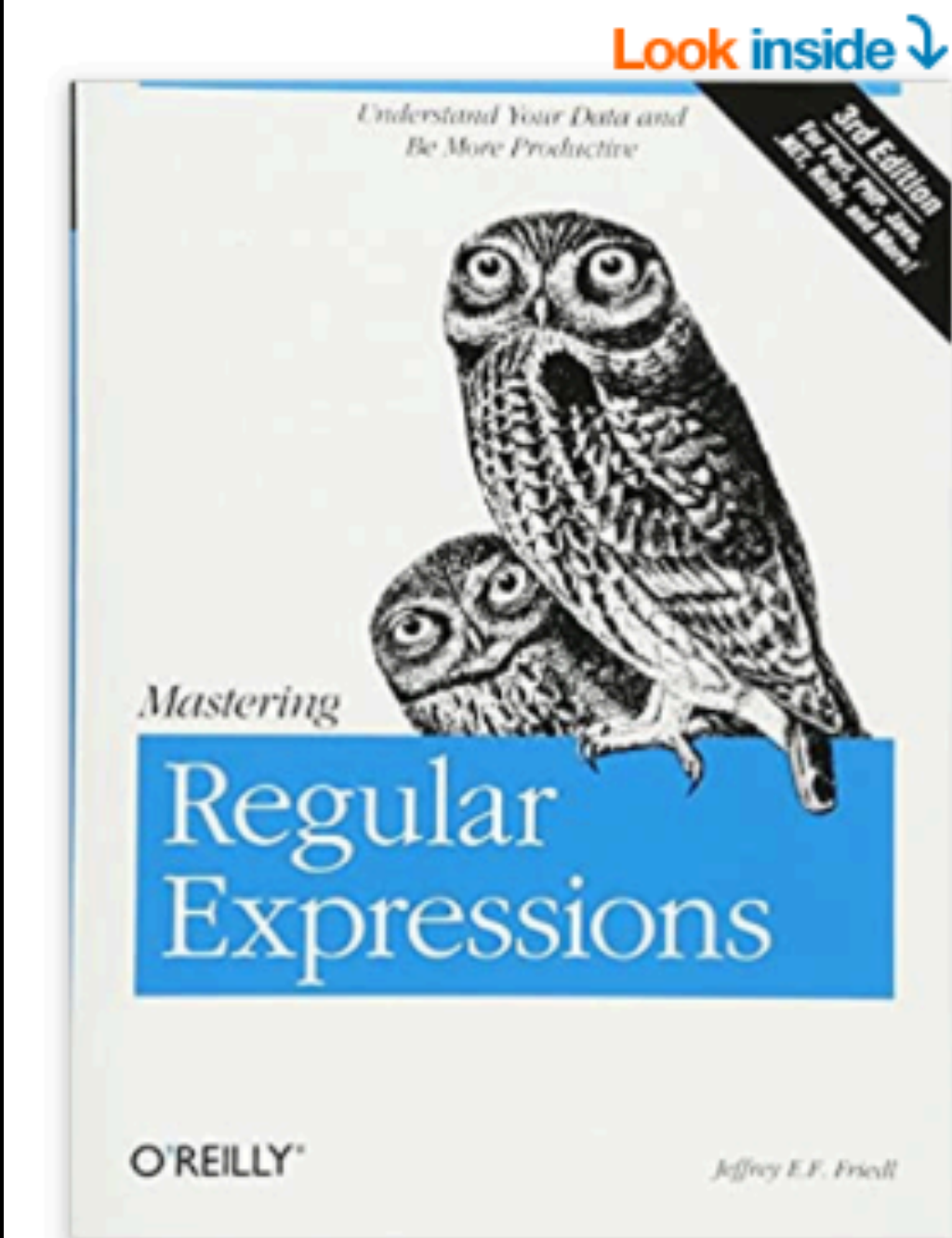
But you can do much more with regular expressions. In a text editor like [EditPad Pro](#) or a specialized text processing tool like [PowerGREP](#), you could use the regular expression `\b[A-Z0-9._%+-]+\@[A-Z0-9.-]+\.[A-Z]{2,}\b` to search for an email address. Any email address, to be exact. A very similar regular expression (replace the first `\b` with `^` and the last one with `$`) can be used by a programmer to check whether the user entered a [properly formatted email address](#). In just one line of code, whether that code is written in [Perl](#), [PHP](#), [Java](#), [a .NET language](#), or a multitude of other languages.

Regular Expressions Quick Start

If you just want to get your feet wet with regular expressions, take a look at the [one-page regular expressions quick start](#). While you can't learn to efficiently use regular expressions from this brief overview, it's enough to be able to throw together a bunch of simple regular expressions. Each section in the quick start links directly to detailed information in the tutorial.

Students, EBT, and Medicaid cardholders save 50% on Prime

Books > Computers & Technology > Programming



See all 3 images

Mastering Regular Expressions Paperback –

August 18, 2006

by Jeffrey E. F. Friedl (Author)

★★★★★ 151 ratings

> See all 3 formats and editions

Kindle
\$29.99

Paperback
\$31.99

Read with Our Free App

30 Used from \$13.27
28 New from \$27.00

Regular expressions are an extremely powerful tool for manipulating text and data. They are now standard features in a wide range of languages and popular tools, including Perl, Python, Ruby, Java, VB.NET and C# (and any language using the .NET Framework), PHP, and MySQL.

If you don't use regular expressions yet, you will discover in this book a whole new world of mastery over your data. If you already use them, you'll appreciate this book's unprecedented detail and breadth of coverage. If you think you know all you need to know about regularexpressions, this book is a stunning eye-opener.

< Read more

Share

Buy New \$31.99

Qty: 1

List Price: \$59.99
Save: \$28.00 (47%)

& FREE Shipping. Details

In Stock.

Ships from and sold by Amazon.com.

Add to Cart

Buy Now

Arrives: Fri, Jun 12

Fastest delivery: Wed, Jun 10
Order within 9 hrs 36 mins

Deliver to William - Saint Paul 55119

REGULAR EXPRESSION

62 matches (~0ms)

```
/[MacBookAir[5-9]|MacBookPro(9|1[0-6])|MacPro[6-7]|iMac(Pro)?1[3-9]?|MacBook(10|9|8)|Macmini[6-8]),\d/gm
```

TEST STRING

SWITCH TO UNIT TESTS ▶

https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201862

Supported:

MacBookAir9,1
MacBookAir8,2
MacBookAir8,1
MacBookAir7,2
MacBookAir7,2
MacBookAir7,1
MacBookAir6,2
MacBookAir6,1
MacBookAir6,2
MacBookAir6,1
MacBookAir5,2
MacBookAir5,1

Unsupported:

MacBookAir4,2
MacBookAir4,1
MacBookAir3,2
MacBookAir3,1
MacBookAir2,1
MacBookAir1,1

EXPLANATION

▼ / [MacBookAir[5-9]|MacBookPro(9|1[0-6])|MacPro[6-7]|iMac(Pro)?1[3-9]?|MacBook(10|9|8)|Macmini[6-8]),\d / gm

▼ 1st Capturing Group
[MacBookAir[5-9]|MacBookPro(9|1[0-6])|MacPro[6-7]|iMac(Pro)?1[3-9]?|MacBook(10|9|8)|Macmini[6-8])

▼ 1st Alternative MacBookAir[5-9]
MacBookAir matches the characters **MacBookAir** literally (case sensitive)

▼ Match a single character present in the list below
[5-9]

MATCH INFORMATION

Match 16

Full match	670-684	MacBookPro16,3
Group 1.	n/a	MacBookPro16
Group 2.	n/a	16

Match 17

Full match	685-699	MacBookPro16,2
Group 1.	n/a	MacBookPro16
Group 2.	n/a	16



Regex Crossword

Welcome to the fantastic world of nerdy regex fun! Start playing by selecting one of the puzzle challenges below. There are a wide range of difficulties from beginner to expert.

[How to play »](#)

Mobile (NEW!)

Try our new mobile version! Optimized for phones and solving puzzles on the go.

[Play »](#)

Tutorial

A step by step tutorial, teaching you the different symbols and regex patterns.

[Play »](#)

Beginner

Cut your teeth on an easy set of crosswords, learning the basics of regular expressions.

[Play »](#)

Intermediate

So you've got skills eh? Let's see how you handle a tougher challenge...

Experienced

Now it's getting difficult. We are ramping up the size and complexity. Try to keep up!

Palindromeda

Bend your mind around these cubistic 2D palindrome puzzles.



Player puzzles

How to play

Stats

About

Help

talkingmoose



Cities

Pisco Sour



Validate



« 1 2 3 4 5 »

[Home](#)

Agenda

What is regex?

Characters with special meanings

Character sets and grouping

Applications and command line tools that support regex

Examples from real world experiences

Regex resources

An Introduction to

(re.ex | re+gex | re?gex | re*gex){1}



William Smith

Professional Services Engineer, Jamf

@talkingmoose *the Slacks*

@meck *the Twitters*

bill@talkingmoose.net *the inboxen*

Resources:

<https://github.com/talkingmoose/introduction-to-regex>

"Regular Expressions"



<https://xkcd.com/208/>